

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299004

70

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:OSG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

AID/SER/INC:MWAMPLER (DRAFT)

DEA:HMORENO (DRAFT)

ARA/MEX:JKEANE (DRAFT)

ARA/LA:GBROWN (DRAFT)

CUSTOMS:JEARLY (DRAFT)

S/NM:DCOHEN

----- 100309

R 191529Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 299004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: AIR INTERDICTION PROPOSAL

REF: DEA MEXICO 0682

1. IN ORDER TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR CCINC ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING AN INITIAL AND LIMITED GOM CAPABILITY FOR AIR INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS, SEVERAL IMPORTANT POINTS SHOULD BE CLARIFIED. THE PROPOSED PROGRAM SHOULD BE DEFINED IN TERMS OF IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE GOALS, EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL, RELATIONSHIP TO CURRENT CAMPAIGN, PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND GOM CAPABILITY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN SUCH A SYSTEM CURRENTLY AND IN FUTURE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 299004

2. BASIC TO AN EFFECTIVE AIR INTERDICTION PROGRAM WOULD

BE EARLY WARNING RADAR, BOTH AIR AND GROUND, SENSOR EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT, I.E., AIRBORNE RADAR AND FORWARD-LOOKING INFRARED, AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, A REAL TIME INFORMATION BASE (IMMEDIATE DATA RETRIEVAL MECHANISM AS RELATES TO SUSPECTS, FLIGHT PLANS, TAIL NUMBER, ETC.) AND APPROPRIATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ENFORCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM. WE DO NOT BELIEVE AIRCRAFT COULD BE USED EFFECTIVELY IN ABSENCE OF ABOVE BASICS NEEDED TO LOCATE, TRACK AND INTERDICT AIRBORNE TARGETS. GOM DOES NOT

POSSESS THESE BASICS, AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT WOULD REQUIRE INTENSE EFFORT OVER MANY MONTHS AT A MINIMUM, SINCE THIS IS AN ENDEAVOR OF NO LESS SOPHISTICATION (AND EVENTUAL COST) THAN THE AIRBORNE ERADICATION PROGRAM, IF IT IS TO BE MORE THAN JUST TOKEN.

3. WE NEED POST COMMENT ON GOM CAPABILITY AND COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP AND USE EFFECTIVELY SUCH BASIC SUPPORTS OF THE PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ITS COST IMPLICATIONS FOR GOM AND CCINC ASSISTANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AVIATION ARM HAS DOUBLED IN TERMS OF AIRCRAFT IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS WHICH HAS INVOLVED INCREASED TRAINING, INCREASED POSITIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES. THE EMBASSY IS BEST QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE GOM HAS THE CAPABILITY TO INITIATE AN AIR INTERDICTION EFFORT WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE EFFORTS OF THE EXISTING AVIATION SYSTEM THAT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THE CURRENT ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN. IN THIS RESPECT, CURRENT AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY INDICATES DIFFICULTY BEING ENCOUNTERED MAINTAINING EXISTING AIRCRAFT. NEW AIRCRAFT OF DIFFERENT TYPES WOULD APPARENTLY ONLY COMPOUND EXISTING PROBLEMS AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE.

4. AS A RELATED ASPECT OF ADDITIONAL BORDER CONTROL BY AIR, FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE A.G.'S OFFICE MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISION OF EARLY WARNING RADAR INSTALLATIONS ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. THE NATURE OF THE TERRAIN ON THE MEXICAN SIDE COULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 299004

POSSIBLY, WITH A FEW INSTALLATIONS TO FILL GAPS OF U.S. SYSTEM, PROVIDE THE NECESSARY COVERAGE TO INTERDICT LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT WHICH MIGHT ESCAPE U.S. RADAR DETECTION. SUCH AN APPROACH COULD AUGMENT EXISTING U.S. INTERDICTION RESOURCES, WITHOUT PLACING ANY DEMAND ON MEXICAN AVIATION RESOURCES AND PROBABLY WOULD PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE INITIAL RESULTS. DISCUSSIONS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING GOM PERMISSION FOR U.S. CUSTOMS

AND DEA INTERDICTION AIRCRAFT TO CROSS INTO MEXICO AND LAND AS APPROPRIATE. COMMAND AND CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS TO INTERCONNECT MEXICAN AND U.S. ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO GAIN MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM MEXICAN RADAR SIGHTINGS.

5. FOLLOWING OPTION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY POST: IN VIEW OF THE MANY TECHNICAL ASPECTS WHICH MUST BE EXPLORED, RECOMMEND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS REGARDING AIR INTERDICTION BE POSTPONED UNTIL ERADICATION PROGRAM FULLY

LAUNCHED AND OPERATING SMOOTHLY. AT THAT TIME WASHINGTON COULD PROVIDE TEAM OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON WHOLE RANGE OF OPTIONS WHICH WOULD FORM BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION BY BOTH GOM AND USG. WE THINK GOM RESOURCES COULD BE SEVERELY STRAINED AT THIS TIME AND DETRACT FROM POTENTIAL PROGRESS OF CAMPAIGN. ASSUMING EXPECTED SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN IS REALIZED, MUCH OF THE AIR INTERDICTION REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE REDUCED.

6. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WE SHOULD CONSIDER INCREASING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOM AND U.S. CUSTOMS AND DEA AIR INTERDICTION UNITS. WE MAY CONSIDER RECOMMENDING ASSIGNMENT OF GOM LIAISON OFFICERS TO U.S. CUSTOMS AIR UNITS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WITH APPROPRIATE GOM ENFORCEMENT OFFICES UNDER THE MEXICAN A.G.'S DIRECTION, ALONG WITH THE ABOVE MENTIONED CONCEPT OF HOT PURSUIT RIGHTS. GOM PERSONNEL POSSIBLY COULD ACCOMPANY U.S. PILOTS ON SUCH MISSIONS.

7. WE DO NOT INTEND THAT OUR INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE AIR INTERDICTION PROPOSAL BE INTERPRETED AS NEGATIVE. THE EMBASSY SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR ITS INITIATIVE IN DEVE-
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PAGE 04 STATE 299004

LOPING NEW MEASURES THAT WILL ASSIST IN INCREASING CONTROL OF THE MOVEMENT OF ILLICIT DRUGS FROM MEXICO TO THE U.S. HOWEVER, WE DO WISH TO PROCEED CAREFULLY WITH CONSIDERATION OF A PROGRAM THAT COULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF CCINC ASSISTANCE. WE REALIZE FULLY THE NEED FOR EMBASSY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO A.G.'S PLANS AND WOULD EXPECT THAT FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH A.G.'S OFFICE ON ABOVE RESERVATIONS, OPTIONS AND COST IMPLICATIONS FOR GOM WILL BE NECESSARY. EVERY POSSIBLE ASPECT OF THE PROGRAM'S POTENTIAL MUST BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BEFORE INITIAL APPROVAL IS TAKEN.

8. WE RECOGNIZE THE MEXICAN INTEREST IN CONTRABAND MOVING SOUTH OVER THE BORDER AND WILL ALSO WANT TO ADDRESS THAT ISSUE AS CONSIDERATION OF AIR INTERDICTION STEPS PROCEEDS.

9. EMBASSY COMMENT IS REQUESTED. KISSINGER

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NNN

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